Quality Operation Hands on Session

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What makes a High Quality Access Grid???

- Good Quality Audio
- Good Quality Video
- Networking
- Ability to utilize the Access Grid's Shared Applications

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Audio

- Echo - There is nothing more disconcerting when chatting with an Access Grid and having your audio “echoed” back.
  - A quality node shouldn’t produce any echo
  - The offending Access Grid doesn’t hear the echo, but produces it
- Quality (Speech) - The speech quality should be excellent and voices must be clearly understood and there should be no distortion in the voice.
  - Speech should sound realistic (Not distant or hollow)

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Audio

- Ambient room noise – A high quality AG shouldn't have any perceptible ambient room noise
  - The background ambient noise shouldn't light up more than the first 3 LED's on the display in RAT
  - Things like noisy computers, air-conditions and other devices can create large amounts of ambient noise.

- Speaking Levels –A high quality AG should have good speaking levels
  - In a normal speaking voice, the LED's in RAT should peak at orange, but not go into the red.
  - The speaking level should also be consistent and not varying and no overdriven audio should be detected.

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Video

- Picture Quality – High Quality AG's video streams should contain:
  - No Flicker
  - Crisp, Clear images
  - Good Lighting levels (Contrast Levels)

- Camera positioning of subjects – High Quality AG's video streams should be able to:
  - Be positioned so that a head and shoulders shot of the presenters can be shown.
  - Display a group of people easily.

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Networking

- Multicast Beacon - A beacon must be install connected to a beacon server
  - UK nodes: http://ulcc.beacon.ja.net/ag/
  - ASIA-PACIFIC nodes: http://beaconserver.grangenet.net/
  - Global nodes: http://beacon.dast.nlanr.net/

  Note that the beacon software doesn't have to install on one of the Access Grid nodes.

- NTP - AG Nodes should be NTP synchronized.

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Access Grid ToolKit

- Restarting the Venue Client - Must be able to restart the Venue Client and be able to interact with very little adjustment.
  - The main purpose is to ensure that all the services are configured correctly and minimal effort is required to join back into the session.
  - An example of a poorly configured node is if the operator has to adjust the audio gain levels every time the client is restarted.
- Text Messaging - Must be able to send and receive a text messages.

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Shared Applications

- Shared Presentation – A Quality Access Grid should have the ability to send and receive a shared presentations.
- Shared Browser – A Quality Access Grid should have the ability the ability to be able to run the shared browser application.
- Shared VNC – A Quality Access Grid should have the ability to at least receive a shared VNC session.
  - Due to firewall restrictions, and security reasons, this is all that is required for a Quality Assured Access Grid node.

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Miscellaneous

- Contact details – It is a good idea to have you AG Node registered and details up to date at AG-Central Node listings.

  http://agcentral.org/nodes

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QA Documentation

- Improving your AG in Preparation for a Quality Assurance Test
  http://agcentral.org/help/tutorial/qualityhelper
- Quality Assurance Test Protocol
  http://agcentral.org/Members/jbell/qatesting/agtest
- Quality Assured Access Grids
  http://accessgrid-qa.cqu.edu.au/

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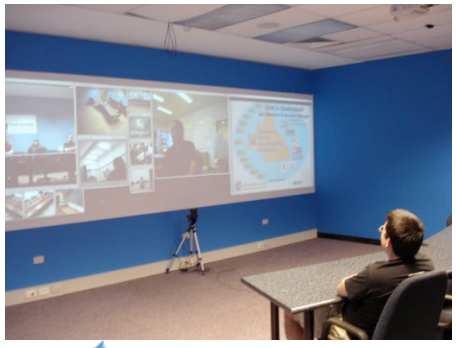
Thankyou

- Feel free to contact me during any of the breaks if you have any questions
- Alternatively, contact me via email at j.bell@cqu.edu.au or visit http://hpc.cqu.edu.au/accessgrid.html
- Generally connected to the APAG Lobby (CQU Piglet)